

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**THURSDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2015 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: E Davies (Chairman), J Greener, V Higgs, L Hyde, F M Oborski, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Rayner, C Rogers, J A Shaw, S J Williams and M J Wrench.

**Observers**

Councillors: G W Ballinger, C Brewer, A R Clent, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, J Holden and M J Stooke.

**OS.76 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: M Price and A M Sewell.

**OS.77 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A M Sewell. Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M Price.

**OS.78 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.79 Exempt Information**

**Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**OS.80 Wyre Forest House – Heating and Cooling System**

The Committee considered an update report from the Chief Executive on the Wyre Forest House project and achievement of savings at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The Committee resolved to scrutinise issues further relating to the heating and cooling system at the building.

The Chief Executive presented the report and appendices to the Committee. The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for providing a very comprehensive and detailed report, Members were reminded of the confidential nature of the papers.

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

The report set out answers to 20 questions which had been submitted in advance of the meeting and carried forward from the previous meeting.

The Solicitor to the Council advised Members that there was no provision to cover unforeseen events when drawing up contracts.

Councillor T L Onslow entered the meeting at this point, (6.51pm).

Members fully scrutinised each of the questions in turn and several points were discussed in length.

Councillor J Holden left the meeting at 7.10pm and Councillor C Rogers left at 7.14pm.

The Committee were content with the information contained in the report and that all reasonable steps had been taken where appropriate. Members stressed the importance of continuing to ensure the authority's position is protected in all future projects.

#### **Recommend to Cabinet:**

- **The Committee considered the information in the report and concludes that all reasonable steps were taken in the design of the building and in dealing with the issues encountered with the heating and cooling system.**
- **Strong advice to Cabinet that for future projects we continue to ensure that all possible measures are taken to protect the authority's position, with maximum transparency and a strong audit trail.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.59pm.